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Rapid Response Team activated to aid Altec Industries employees

ST. JOSEPH -- The State Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers that will be displaced by the additional layoffs announced by Altec Industries of St. Joseph.

Sixty workers, who are employed as technicians and technician assistants, are being laid off. In August the company laid off 15 workers.

The Rapid Response Team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and the Local Missouri Career Center, responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Altec employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"When layoffs occur, it is important that Missourians know where they can turn for assistance," said Driskill. "I encourage these individuals to take advantage of the free services offered through the local Missouri Career Centers to help them find new employment opportunities."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Full Employment Council are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers on Wednesday (Nov. 7) at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Economic Opportunity Corporation, 817 Monterey in St. Joseph.

Altec Industries make truck mounted digger derricks and aerial work platforms. Company officials attributed the layoffs to slow sales.

Employers interested in hiring Altec workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can contact the Economic Opportunity Corporation at the Missouri Career Center at (816) 387-2380.